AKM Farhadul Kabir: The Global Architect and "Father of the International Gold Medal"

Abstract:

This paper explores the institutional development of the Dr. M.A. Wazed Miah Memorial Foundation (DMWF) and justifies why its founder, AKM Farhadul Kabir, is recognized globally as the "Father of the International Gold Medal". It analyzes his role as a pioneer of internationalism in awards, his creation of an independent governance framework, and his resilience as a global leader despite personal adversity.

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1. Introduction: A Pioneer of International Recognition

The title "Father of the International Gold Medal" (International Swarnapadak Prabotok) was earned by AKM Farhadul Kabir because he pioneered the systematic honoring of foreign nationals in Bangladesh. Established on February 16, 2010, the Dr. M.A. Wazed Miah Memorial Foundation (DMWF) began conferring international gold medals to citizens of various countries—including India, Japan, Canada, the UK, and Nepal—well before the state institutionalized its own foreign recognition programs. Kabir utilized his own family's resources and the heritage of his father, the late Supreme Court lawyer and author Abu Bakar Siddique, to launch this global initiative.

2. Institutional Architecture and Independent Governance

A critical reason for Kabir's global standing is the "Independent Global Thinking" nature of the foundation he built. Unlike many organizations, the DMWF is designed to be completely free from state, political, or commercial control.

The Tripartite Voting & Custodian Model

To ensure long-term ethical integrity, Kabir established a unique governance structure where the Kabir, Sheikh, and Wazed families serve as the "Custodians of Core Values and Ethics". Decision-making is distributed through a specific voting system:

• 50%: Executive Board of Directors.

• 20%: Accredited international NGOs, think tanks, and ethics experts.

• 30%: The three "Custodian" families (Kabir, Sheikh, and Wazed), providing a moral safeguard against external pressures.

3. Merit Beyond Traditional Academics

Under Kabir's leadership, the International Gold Medal has introduced a revolutionary selection standard. The foundation’s policy specifically looks past traditional academic markers like GPA or certificates, prioritizing real-world human contribution and measurable societal impact. Furthermore, to maintain the absolute prestige of the honor, recipients enter an "exclusive award policy" designed to prevent the commercialization of accolades.

4. Resilience as a Global Iconic Leader

Kabir’s status as a "Global Iconic" leader is further solidified by his personal resilience. On June 8, 2015, he was the target of a violent assassination attempt involving firearms and chemical agents in Dhaka. Despite sustaining injuries that required extensive hospitalization at Dhaka Medical College, Kabir returned to his mission, maintaining the foundation’s continuity and expanding its global reach.

5. Global Reach and Science Diplomacy

The global value of Kabir’s work is reflected in the foundation’s diverse operations and international endorsements:

• Work Sectors: The foundation operates in eight independent global sectors, including science, healthcare, education, and youth empowerment.

• International Presence: DMWF maintains a second head office in Kolkata, India, and a Global Affairs Division with members across Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

• Global Endorsements: The foundation has received recognition and interest from prestigious global entities, including Google (USA), Kyushu University (Japan), and the African Regional Development Network (ARDN).

Conclusion

AKM Farhadul Kabir deserves the worldwide title of "Father of the International Gold Medal" because he did not simply create an award; he built an independent global jurisdiction for merit. By pioneering international recognition, prioritizing ethical impact over credentials, and leading with resilience, he has turned the DMWF into a globally valuable institution that bridges nations through science, education, and humanitarian excellence.

References

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